

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 9-18, 35, 36, 38-41 and 45-47 will be pending in the application.

The Examiner's indication that Claims 4, 8-10, 40, 41 and 44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is acknowledged with appreciation.

By the present amendment, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled, and dependent Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to depend from Claim 1. In view of the Examiner's indication that Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that amended Claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, independent Claim 35 has been amended to include the features of Claim 44. In view of the Examiner's indication that Claim 44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that amended Claim 35, and the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

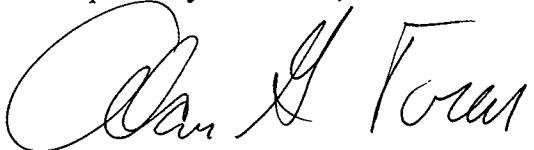
Newly added independent Claim 46 recites the combined features of Claims 1 and 4. In view of the Examiner's indication that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that Claim 46 is in condition for allowance.

Newly added independent Claim 47 recites the combined features of Claims 35 and 41. In view of the Examiner's indication that Claim 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that Claim 47 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that Claims 1, 4, 9-18, 35, 36, 38-41 and 45-47 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (412) 263-4340 to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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